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23 May 1967

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Report on Agency-Academic Seminars
on Communist China held at University
of California, Berkeley, (May 1) and
Stanford (May 2)

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1. These meetings were intended as small group follow-up sessions to the general Bay Area seminar held in San Francisco, November 3, 1966. The Agency participants, in addition to myself, were [redacted] of OCI and [redacted] DDI/RS. [redacted], attended the Berkeley session, and [redacted] attended the Stanford meeting.

2. We encountered no embarrassing incidents or difficulties. On the other hand, we derived no significant benefits from these exchanges. Their usefulness must be measured entirely in terms of their usefulness in building mutual professional respect between our China experts and their counterparts among the academics. The session at the University of California, Berkeley, was disappointing--the academic group was smaller and weaker than I had anticipated. On the other hand, the session at Stanford attracted more participants and provoked a more stimulating discussion than expected. Both sessions, however, plowed some new ground and each in its own way was useful.

3. The University of California, Berkeley, session was held at the Berkeley House Hotel on University Avenue the afternoon of 1 May. [redacted]

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5. The discussion at Berkeley roamed over the deeply-plowed fields of the cultural revolution without turning up any new tubers. However, the cultivation of

most interesting point to me was [redacted] development. of the view that a post-Mao leadership would make major efforts to renew relations with the Soviet Union, and that Peking would find Moscow receptive, though a hard bargainer, in the restoration of close Sino-Soviet relations.

6. The Stanford session was held at the Hyatt House, Palo Alto, on May 2. The physical set up and arrangements for this meeting were excellent. The attendance was much larger than I had anticipated, including seven Stanford professors, four of whom had not attended our November 1986 session in San Francisco. In retrospect, we could have spent profitably another day in Palo Alto, holding two smaller sessions rather than a single large one.

7. The discussion lasted about four hours, beginning in a studio sitting room at the Hyatt House and continuing through dinner at Rickey's. The discussion was more animated and on a higher substantive plane than was the case at Berkeley. Efforts to channel the discussion

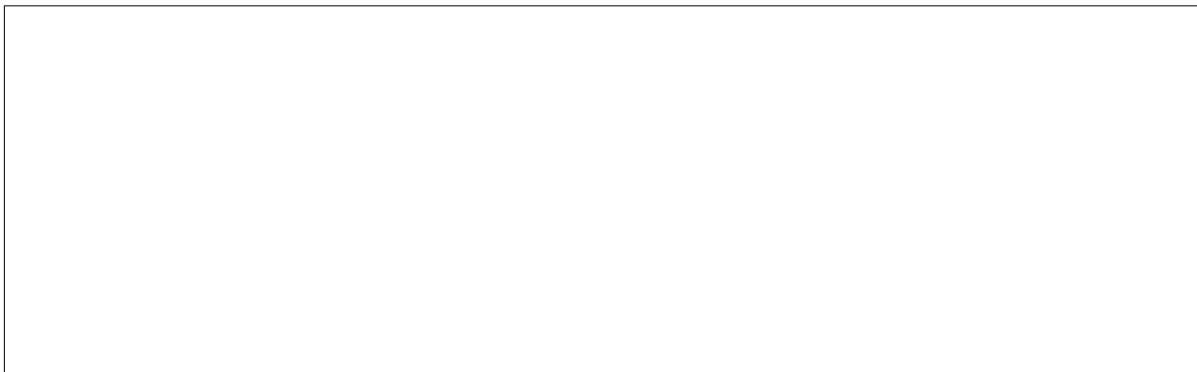
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away from the Grand Canyon of the cultural revolution and to focus on the consequences of that stream of events were not very successful. The meeting was too large to provide the academic participants opportunities to develop their positions in detail. Nevertheless, I believe it was a successful affair.


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9. These two sessions and the series of eight Agency-Academic Seminars on Communist China which I have organized and conducted during the 1966-67 academic year. The broad and basic purpose was to foster, by means of candid, substantive discussions, mutual professional respect between our China analysts and leading or especially promising China experts from the academic community. I believe that the effort has been at least a modest success, and that it is worth repeating next year, with some adjustments in format and participants.

10. Attached (a) is a recapitulation of the sessions, and of the participants. Also attached (b) are paragraphs 2-6 from my Memorandum to the DDI, dated 21 December 1966, assessing the Seminar experiment. They still reflect my best judgment.

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Coordinator for Academic Relations
DDI, China Task Force

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Attachment B

Excerpts from Memorandum for: DDI; Subject: Agency--
Academic Seminars on Communist China: Assessments
and Recommendations, dated 21 December 1966

2. What have these sessions accomplished? Perhaps most importantly, we--the Agency--have initiated a substantive dialogue with a large and impressive selection of the China experts of the academic community. For their part, the academics have responded willingly--in most instances enthusiastically--to our initiative. In the meetings, they spoke with candor and without inhibitions. They gave us their best judgments and queried ours. In all sessions the atmosphere was congenial and the professional level high. For our part, the Agency analysts were shown off to advantage. They performed very well, and it was obvious that the university experts were impressed with their professional quality. Mutual professional respect grew almost visibly between the two groups of participants. Now that we have taken the initiative and found the other side receptive, we must, I believe, follow up and develop the dialogue. To drop it after such a promising beginning would be a serious mistake.

3. We have spotted a number of exceptionally capable and willingly communicative individuals among the university experts on Communist China with whom follow-up sessions in depth would be useful. We have also identified some professors of exalted reputation whose interests, capabilities, or influence place them in a "very limited utility" category. Although the four seminars skimmed much of the cream from the limited supply of academic expertise on Communist China, we have not yet exhausted the list of potentially useful and helpful experts. We have not touched the south, where there are a few scattered China authorities, and a number of major schools--such as Cornell, Yale, Wisconsin, Virginia, USC,--were omitted from the seminar sessions for one reason or another.

4. We have also, through these seminars, established a basis for a good, continuing, relationship with a number of key academics. Although to some extent this relationship is a personal one, it leads in the direction of better institutional relations. The

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more personal contact between Agency and academic professionals, under good circumstances and to mutually beneficial result, the greater the opportunities for improving attitudes toward the Agency. But, I caution against high expectations.

6. Overall, the Agency-Academic Seminars have been successful public relations ventures; they have seeded ground, which, carefully cultivated, may have fruit; and they have been substantively rewarding to both sides. Our analysts came away from the four sessions convinced that, under proper conditions, meaningful and useful commentary on key intelligence problems of an analytical and estimative nature can be derived from the academic experts.

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